

July 7, 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 04-207

A La Carte and Themed Tier Programming and Pricing  
Options For Cable and Satellite Delivered Programming

Honorable Commissioners,

The members of the National Association of Public Affairs Networks, Inc. (NAPAN) wish to share with you their opposition to any ruling requiring cable and satellite providers to offer programming on an a la carte basis (MB Docket No. 04-207).

NAPAN's members are state public affairs networks offering coverage of state legislative proceedings and related programming (state supreme court oral arguments, state executive branch proceedings, etc.) in the style of the national C-SPAN cable networks, i.e. unedited, unfiltered, and without commentary. Although not all NAPAN member networks are cable or satellite delivered, the majority do rely on cable or satellite services for all or part of their distribution as well as for all or part of their revenue through subscriber fees. As "niche" networks (who nonetheless provide an invaluable service to their viewers), our members are very likely to lose subscribers and/or positions in channel lineups if an a la carte model is enforced. Loss of these networks would deny the residents of their states an important conduit to the democratic proceedings of their respective state governments.

For these reasons we oppose any efforts to require that program networks be sold or offered on an a la carte basis.

Sincerely,

Paul Giguere, President  
The National Association of Public Affairs Networks